

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) An active charcoal produced by physical activation of olive marc, characterized by:
  - a total pore volume of greater than or equal to 1.00 ml/g,
  - a bed strength (BS), measured according to a bulk crushing test from Shell, of greater than or equal to 1 MPa (10 bar), and
  - a BET specific surface of greater than or equal to 500 m<sup>2</sup>/gsaid physical activation comprising a first stage of carbonization of olive marc, generally at approximately 500°C followed by a second stage of activation with steam generally at approximately 500°C.
2. (Previously Presented) An active charcoal according to Claim 1, characterized in that it exhibits:
  - a micropore volume, measured by nitrogen adsorption, of greater than or equal to 0.20 ml/g,
  - a mesopore volume, measured by nitrogen adsorption and mercury intrusion, of greater than or equal to 0.15 ml/g, and
  - a macropore volume, measured by mercury intrusion, of greater than or equal to 0.40 ml/g.
3. (Previously Presented) An active charcoal according to Claim 1, having an iron content by weight of less than or equal to 2000 ppm.
4. (Currently Amended) An active charcoal according to Claim 1, having a bulk density of between 0.20 and 0.50g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

5. (Previously Presented) An active charcoal according to Claim 1, having an ash content of less than or equal to 10% of the total weight of the active charcoal.
6. (Previously Presented) An active charcoal according to Claim 1, having a particle size such that the charcoal particles are retained by a sieve with a mesh size of 0.2 mm and are provided in the form of strands, granules or beads.
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Presented) A process for the impregnation of active charcoal as defined in Claim 1:
- a) with an aqueous solution of a metal complex chosen from cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc and vanadium phthalocyanines, metal complexes of polyaminoalkylpolycarboxylic acid, complexes of EDTA or of one of its salts, cobalt phthalocyanine, and optionally one or more promoting or doping additives, and
  - b) by impregnation with a basic solution.
9. (Previously Presented) Catalyst for the oxidation of mercaptans to disulphides, characterized in that it is composed of at least one metal complex, such as a cobalt, nickel, copper, zinc or vanadium phthalocyanine, preferably cobalt phthalocyanine, or one metal complex of polyaminoalkylpolycarboxylic acid attached to an active charcoal as defined in Claim 1.
10. (Previously Presented) Catalyst for the oxidation of mercaptans according to Claim 9, characterized in that it is capable of being obtained according to the impregnation process of this invention, it being understood that the impregnation stage b) can take place during the reaction for the oxidation of the mercaptans.
11. (Previously Presented) In a catalyst comprising a support and catalytic metals, the

improvement wherein the support is an active charcoal as defined in Claim 1.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Previously Presented) In processes for purification and/or separation by selective adsorption in a liquid phase and/or in a gas phase decolouration of liquid foodstuffs, water treatment, air treatment, recovery of solvents, the improvement wherein said liquid or gas is contacted with a charcoal as defined in claim 1.

14. (Previously Presented) An active charcoal according to Claim 2, having an iron content by weight of less than or equal to 2000 ppm.

15. (Currently Amended) An active charcoal according to Claim 14, having a bulk density of between 0.20 and 0.50  $\text{g/cm}^3$ .

16. (Previously Presented) An active charcoal according to claim 15, having a total pore volume of greater than or equal to 1.20 ml/g, a bed strength (BS) greater than or equal to 1.5 MPa (15 bar) and a BET specific surface greater than 700  $\text{m}^2/\text{g}$ .

17. (Previously Presented) An active charcoal according to claim 1, having a micropore volume greater than or equal to 0.30 ml/g, a mesopore volume greater than or equal to 0.20 ml/g and a macropore volume greater than or equal 0.50 ml/g.

18. (Previously Presented) An active charcoal according to claim 16, having a micropore volume greater than or equal to 0.30 ml/g, a mesopore volume greater than or equal to 0.20 ml/g and a macropore volume greater than or equal 0.50 ml/g.

19. (Previously Presented) An active charcoal according to claim 1, having an iron content less than or equal to 300 ppm.
20. (Previously Presented) An active charcoal according to claim 18, having an iron content less than or equal to 300 ppm.
21. (Currently Amended) An active charcoal according to claim 20, having a bulk density between 0.3 and 0.4 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.
22. (Previously Presented) An impregnated active charcoal produced by the process of claim 8.